

SALT

STATEMENT BY THE DCI ON HIS ROLE IN SALT MONITORING

Verification of the SALT treaty is a policy function ultimately performed by the President of the United States with the specialized advice of many individuals and agencies. Intelligence monitoring of the treaty is only one of those inputs.

The role of the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) is to monitor Soviet performance with respect to the provisions of the treaty-- not to judge whether an activity constitutes a violation of them. He gives his best estimate of our national capabilities to monitor the quantity and quality of the Soviet weapons controlled under the agreement. It is his responsibility to advise the policymakers on how well he can monitor each of the terms of the treaty. He will provide full detail of his estimates of monitoring capabilities to the Senate in the course of its debate. Whether the advantages of the treaty outweigh the risks is a judgment of the policymakers who submit it and the Senators who approve it, not the DCI.

The monitoring process must remain highly classified. The DCI will have no further public comments on his role in the SALT monitoring and verification process.